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1962/10/22

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action SS

George

Control: 16973

Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1962
4:22 AM

Info FROM: CARACAS .

FROM: CARACAS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 496, OCTOBER 22, 10 PM

NIACT.

DEPARTMENT PASS ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLAD CINCARIB, POLAD
CINCLANT.

DELIVERED PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT BETANCOURT AT 5 P. M. AND HE CALLED IN MINISTERS FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERIOR AND DEFENSE FOR CONVERSATION IN WHICH HE LAID OUT INTERNATIONAL LINE FULLY IN SUPPORT OF US POSITION. HE EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND STATED HE WOULD MAKE SUPPORTING SPEECH TO NATION WEDNESDAY NIGHT. HE APPEARED RELIEVED AT NATURE OF PRESIDENT'S POSITION AS HE EVIDENTLY FEARED ANNOUNCEMENT UNILATERAL US ACTION. IN MY PRESENCE PRESIDENT: (A) TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR SOSA AT UN AND INSTRUCTED HIM SUPPORT AMBASSADOR STEVENSON FULLY AND MAKE SPEECH OUTLINING VENEZUELA'S TRADITIONAL POLICY TOWARDS CUBA AND UNDERSCORING THREAT TO HEMISPHERE. HAVE SENT FOREIGN MINISTER TEXT PROPOSED RESOLUTION.

(B) INSTRUCTED THAT VENEZUELA'S OAS REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORT US POSITION RE ACTION UNDER ARTICLE SIX AND EIGHT RIO TREATY. SAID HE MIGHT SEND FOREIGN MINISTER BACK TO WASHINGTON TO HANDLE SITUATION.

(C) DECIDED TO POSTPONE UNTIL AFTER OAS MEETING FULL
CONSIDERATION OF ANY VENEZUELAN-US MILITARY CONSULTATIONS
OR COOPERATION.

(D) EMPHASIZED VENEZUELA WAS NOT ASKING FOR ANY THING FOR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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-2- 496, OCTOBER 22, 10 PM FROM CARACAS

THIS SUPPORT BUT DID SUGGEST US COULD CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO SITUATION HERE BY EXPEDITING DELIVERY OF OUTSTANDING FY 1962 (NOT NEW) MILITARY CREDIT SALES EQUIPMENT FOR MILITARY AND POLICE. STATED FRANKLY, AND MINISTER DEFENSE CONCURRED, THERE WAS GREAT DEAL SKEPTICISM IN ARMED FORCES INCLUDING ARMY COMMANDER ABOUT ABILITY US TO DELIVER PROMPTLY.

PRESIDENTS MEASURES FOR INTERNAL SECURITY IN NEXT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

STEWART

SJR

NOTE: RELAYED TO CINCARIB, CINCLANT 10/23/62.

Note: Handled as ELITE per S/S-O.
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